

August 27, 2019

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN BAY COUNTY ISSUES
ADVISORIES FOR FOUR HEALTHY BEACHES PROGRAM**
*Enterococci bacteria levels high at Laguna Beach, Delwood Beach,
Beach Drive, and Dupont Bridge*



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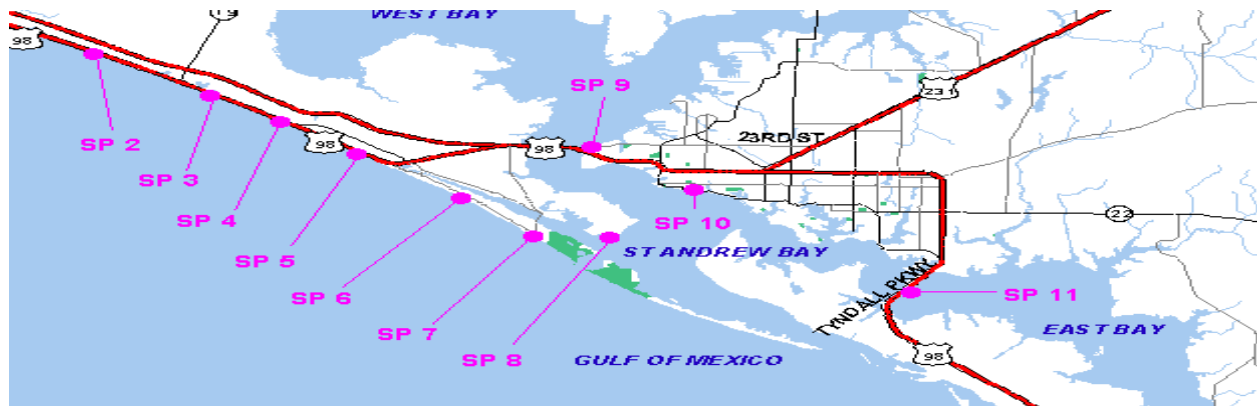
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Panama City, Fla. – The Florida Department of Health in Bay County (DOH-Bay) conducts saltwater beach water quality monitoring in accordance with the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. New funding now allows **weekly water sampling between March and October**. The samples are checked for **enteric bacteria** that normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals. The presence of enteric bacteria **can be an indication of fecal pollution**, which may come from storm water runoff, pets and wildlife, and human sewage. **Poor results** are posted as an **“Advisory”** at the affected beaches.

The advisory for **Panama City Beach City Pier Beach** (SP 2) located at 16201 Front Beach Rd #D, Panama City Beach has been **lifted**. An **advisory** has been **issued** for the **Laguna Beach** (SP 2), 19440 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach. The **advisories** for **Delwood Beach** (SP 8) located at end of Jan Cooley Drive, Upper Grand Lagoon, **Beach Drive** (SP 10) located at US-98 West Beach Drive, and **Dupont Bridge** (SP 11) located at the end of Oakshore Drive, Panama City **are still in effect**. There are no advisories for any of the Bay County Healthy Beaches sampling locations.

Healthy Beaches advisories are issued **to protect swimmers from increased risk of gastrointestinal illnesses**. At a **lower occurring level**, there may also be increased risks of **upper respiratory infections, skin rashes, and ear infections**. Healthy Beach advisories are **not related to Necrotizing fasciitis**, a rare complication.



DOH-Bay **tests six sites** along the Gulf of Mexico from Laguna Beach to Panama City Beach access #1. There are **four locations along St. Andrews Bay** including; Delwood Beach, Carl Grey Park, Beach Drive, and Dupont Bridge. **Sampling** is done on **Mondays** with **results** on **Tuesday**, with exception of holidays. Results are shared at Bay.FloridaHealth.gov, through media releases, and **real-time** on the Florida Healthy Beaches page at **FloridaHealth.gov** and search for **“Healthy Beaches”**.

Florida Healthy Beaches Program Categories are; Good = 0-35 Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water, Moderate = 36-70 Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water, and **Poor** = **71** or greater Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water. If **levels** are **above 70**, **DOH-Bay notifies** the local **Florida Department of Environmental Protection** for further investigation.



If you have any questions, please contact the Florida Department of Health in Bay County at 850-481-4806 or visit the Department of Health's Internet Beach Water Quality website at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/healthy-environments/beach-water-quality/index.html>.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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